UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,759	08/06/2003	Toshiyuki Sakuma	500.43002X00	6862

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HAIDER, FAWAAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rcv. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>16 May 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>*1,2,4-7 and 20*</u> is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>*1,2,4-7 and 20*</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>06 August 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1.   Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: In the fourth

paragraph of the second page of the application, "which is difference" should be "which

is different." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed

or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the

subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter

as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall

not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Scheer (2002/0161674) in view of Nagata (2002/0077979).

Re Claim 1: Scheer discloses comprising: demand predicting means for

calculating a predicted value of a demand based on past actual demand information

(see Abstract, [0004, 0026, 0192, 0197, 0216, 0233, 0239]); actual value retrieval

means for retrieving an actual value of demand which is compared with the predicted

demand value (see [0026, 0196, 0216]); predicted remainder calculating means for

calculating a predicted remainder which is a difference between the predicted demand value and the actual value (see [0028, 0163, 0187, 0208]); parameter calculating means for calculating a parameter such as standard deviation by employing the predicted remainder (see [0184-0185, 0208, 0236-0238]); safety stock calculating means for calculating safety stock based upon said parameter (see [0024, 0039, 0132-0133, 0245]); input means for accepting setting or updating of a setting value such as a planning cycle, and at least one of a procurement lead time and a plan lead time (see [0004, 0034, 0036, 0165, 0179]), wherein the demand predicting means calculates planned demand value of a second past time period based on an actual demand value of a first past time period stored in the data storage means (see [0027-0029]). Scheer also discloses wherein the actual value retrieval means retrieves and totalizes actual demand values corresponding to the second past time period stored in the data storage means (see [0215]). Scheer discloses wherein the predicted remainder calculating means calculates a predicted remainder, which is a difference between the planned demand value of the second past time period and the actual demand value of the second past time period (see [0028, 0163, 0187, 0208]). Scheer also discloses wherein the process is repeatedly performed as for different past time periods until a desired number of processes is obtained, wherein the parameter calculating means calculates a standard deviation based on the plurality of the samples of the predicted reminders obtained by the repeated calculation, and wherein the safety sock calculating means calculates a safety stock based upon the standard deviation and the updated setting value to update a current safety stock (see [0024, 0039, 0132-0133, 0245]).

The examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disclose wherein a process is performed in which the demand predicting means calculates a planned demand value of a third past time period stored in the data storage means which is different from the first past time period, the actual value retrieval means retrieves and totalizes actual demand value corresponding to the fourth past time period, and the predicted remainder calculating means calculates a predicted reminder from the planned demand value of the fourth past time period and the actual demand value of the fourth past time period to obtain a new sample of the predicted reminder. This is merely repeating the process above.

Scheer fails to disclose a data storage means. However, Nagata discloses a data storage means storing therein in time sequence the respective setting values and the actual demand information at every unit time period from past time to present time (see [0179, 0270-0272, 0278-0279, 0326]). It would have been obvious to modify Scheer's invention with Nagata's disclosure of a data storage means in order to make an access to a management table for storing therein data (see [0038]).

Re Claim 2: Scheer discloses safety stock calculating means operated in such a manner that upon receipt of updating of the setting value such as said planning cycle, said plan lead time, and said procurement lead time from said input means, a time period to be calculated is changed in such a way that an end point of said predetermined time period becomes a past time instant with respect to a present time

instant, and then, safety stock at the present time instant is calculated (see [0165, 0178, 0183, 0193, 0214]).

Re Claims 4-7: Nagata discloses comprising a data-source storage unit in which data employed in said various sorts of calculations are stored in a plurality of tables, wherein said input means accepts an input of a sort of a table which is wanted to be used while a function of said inventory control system is utilized (see [0179, 0270-0272, 0278-0279, 0326]); data copying/writing means for accepting a designation of a data table which is wanted to be used in said respective calculating process operations by said input means, and for writing the data of said designated table from said data-source storage unit into said data storage unit based upon a content of said accepted designation of a record range or a designation of a data amount as to a table which is wanted to be used by a client (see [0019, 0535-0536, 0765, 0975-0976, 1441, 1468]); and fee collecting means for collecting a fee based upon a preset fee system in response to a sort of said data table or to information as to either said record range designation or said data amount designation (see [0804, 0806, 0808, 0810, 0813, 0849-0867]).

Nagata discloses comprising a management server machine including said input means for further accepting an input of a table name which is wanted to be used when the function of said inventory control system is used, and ticket file issuing means for issuing a ticket file based upon said preset fee system in response to a sort of said table and for transmitting said issued ticket file to a client machine; and a plurality of server machines including at least any one of said data copying/writing means and data

reading control means, said data copying/writing means copying data of a designated

table from the data-source storage unit for storing thereinto said plurality of tables based

upon information indicated in said ticket file, and said data reading control means for

controlling to read the data of said designated table based upon the information

indicated in said ticket file with respect to the data-source storage unit for storing said

plurality of tables (see [0060, 0061, 0070, 0112, 0285, 0293, 0363, 0429, 0433-0435,

0439, 0541, 1255, 1257]).

Re Claim 20: The examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disclose wherein each of

the stored second and fourth past time periods is a time period substantially same as a

planned range which is a sum of the planning cycle, the procurement lead time, and the

plan lead time.

Conclusion

3.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. Bowman-Amuah (6,081,518) discloses a system, method, and

article of manufacture for cross-location registration in a communication system

architecture. Brown et al (2002/0138314) discloses a system, method, and article of

manufacture for multiple language support in a supply chain system. Burk et al

(2003/0023520) discloses a system, method, and computer program product for price

auditing in a supply chain management network. Ananian (2003/0028451) discloses a

personalized interactive digital catalog profiling. Cornelius et al (6,629,081) discloses an

account settlement and financing in an e-commerce environment. Reece

(2003/0055704) discloses a system, method, and computer program product for

defining roles/responsibilities in a supply chain management network. Quinones

(6,904,449) discloses a system and method for an application provider framework.

Leong et al (7,167,844) discloses an electronic menu document creator in a virtual

financial environment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Fawaad Haider whose telephone number is 571-272-

7178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fawaad Haider

F. RYAN ZEENDER
PRIMARY EXAMINER